

AQUIFER EXEMPTION Cat Canyon Oil Field, Sisquoc and Monterey Formation

A presentation by the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources

January 24, 2023

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 - Not a current source of drinking water
 - Proposed aquifers contain oil
 - Alternate sources of fresh water available

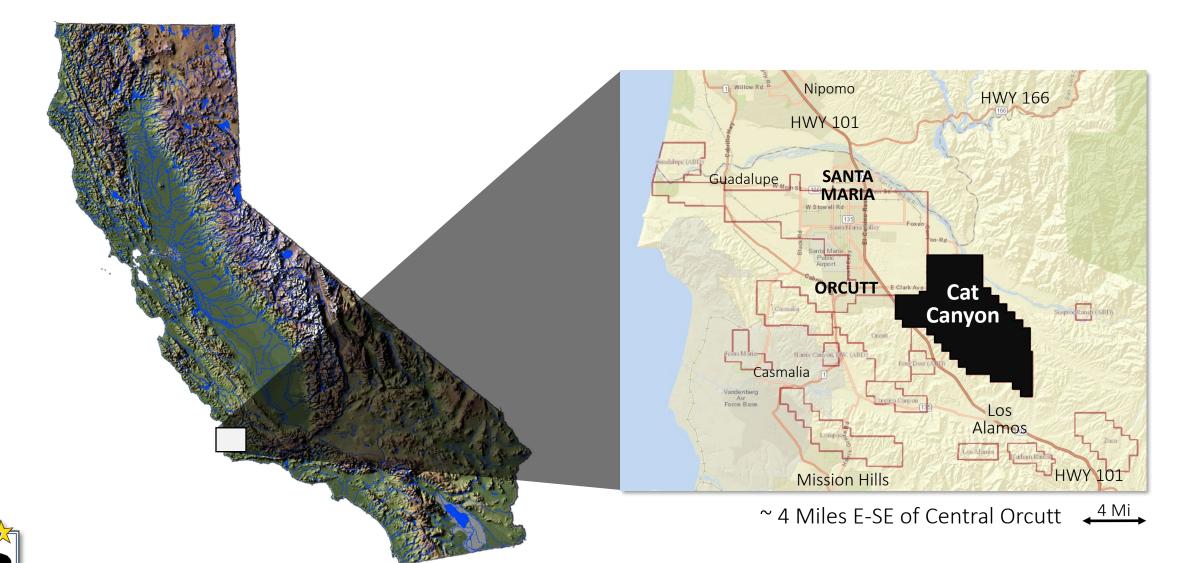
5. Meets State Exemption Criteria

- Injection will not affect the quality of water that may be used for any beneficial use.
- Injected fluid will remain in the portion of the aquifer to be exempted.



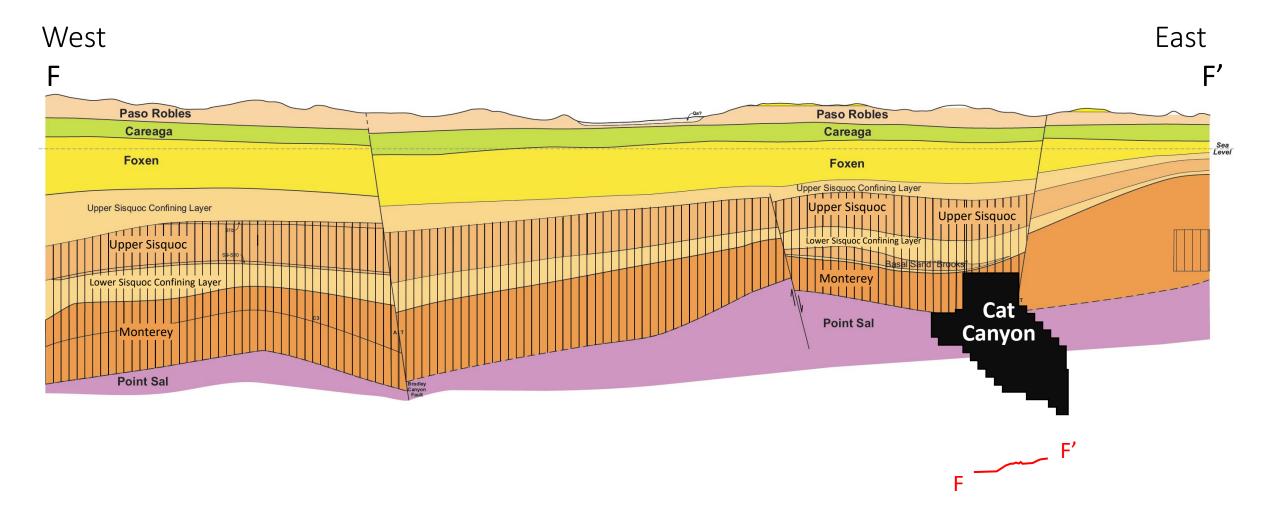


LOCATION





STRATIGRAPHY

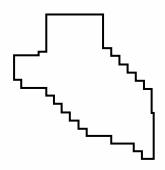




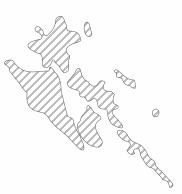
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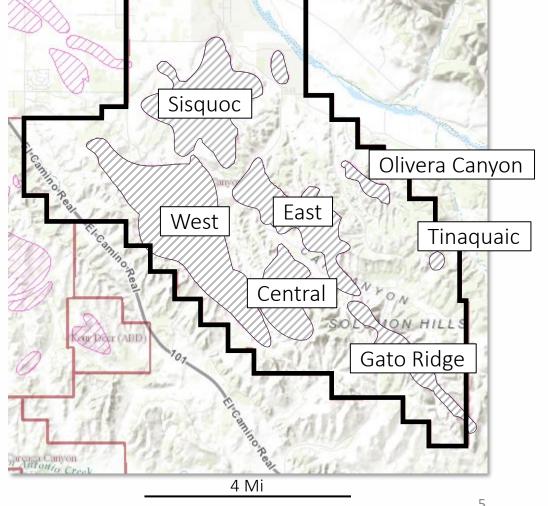
Primacy Exemption

Oil Field Boundaries



1973 Oil Productive Areas



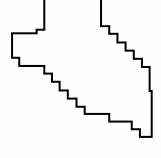




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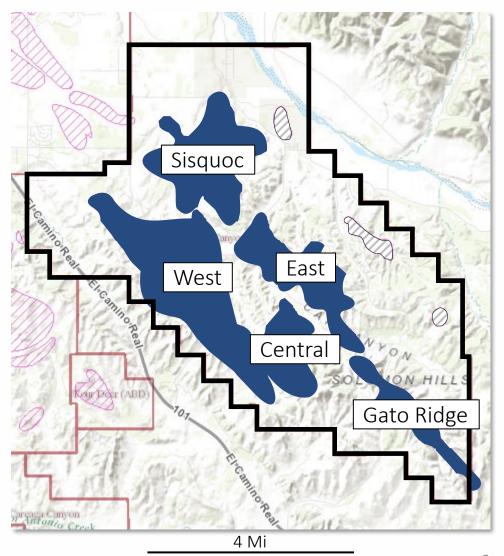
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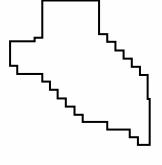




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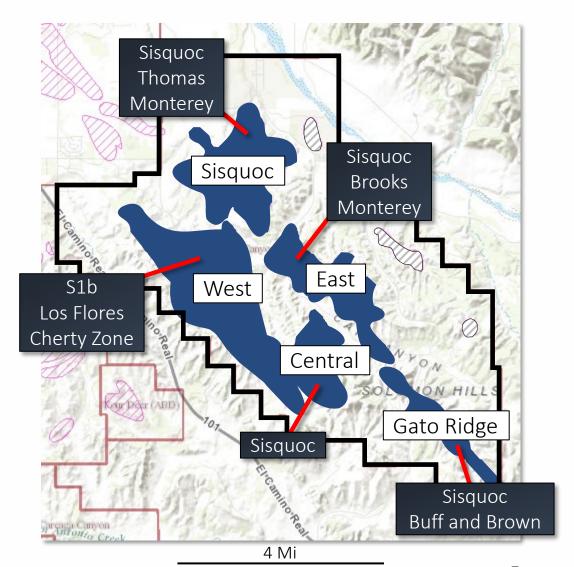
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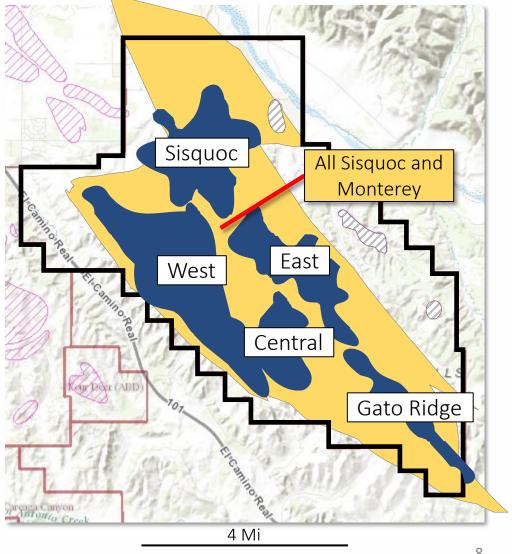






EXEMPTION PROPOSAL

Oil Field Boundaries 1973 Oil Productive Areas Proposed Exemption Area (Sisquoc known oil)





- a) The aquifer does not currently serve as a source of drinking water.
- b) The aquifer cannot now, and will not in the future, serve as a source of drinking water because:

 1) it is mineral, hydrocarbon, or geothermal energy producing, or can be demonstrated by a permit applicant as part of a permit application for a Class II operation to contain hydrocarbons that considering their quantity and location are expected to be commercially producible.



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- There are 7 public supply wells in the study area, but **none** are in the expansion area.
- The nearest public supply well is close to the edge of the expansion area (less than ¼ mile), and appears to supply water to an elementary school.
- None of the public wells penetrate the Sisquoc or Monterey Formations.



FEDERAL EXEM Santa Maria Paso Robles PASO ROBLES/ Careaga PASO ROBLES/ CAREAGA CAREAGA Orcutt Foxen Orcutt , PASO ROBLES PASO ROBLES Upper Sisquoc Confining Layer Upper Sisquoc Lower Sisquoc Confining Layer Harris Canyon, NW (ABD) Au Dor (ABD) Monterey San Amonia Creek LOS ALAMOS VALLEY **Point Sal** 2 Mi PASO ROBLES

WATER WELLS

PDF 96

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- In the study area, 98% of the water wells are completed above the Sisquoc formation. 7 water wells penetrate the Sisquoc and/or Monterey. They are either labelled Test Hole, Domestic Irrigation, or Irrigation. They do not appear to be used for drinking water.



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- In the proposed expansion area, only one water well penetrates the Sisquoc Formation, but its only as deep as the uppermost portion of the thick, overlying shale. This well does not penetrate the portion of Sisquoc proposed for exemption.

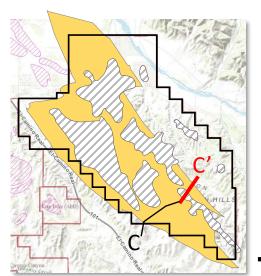


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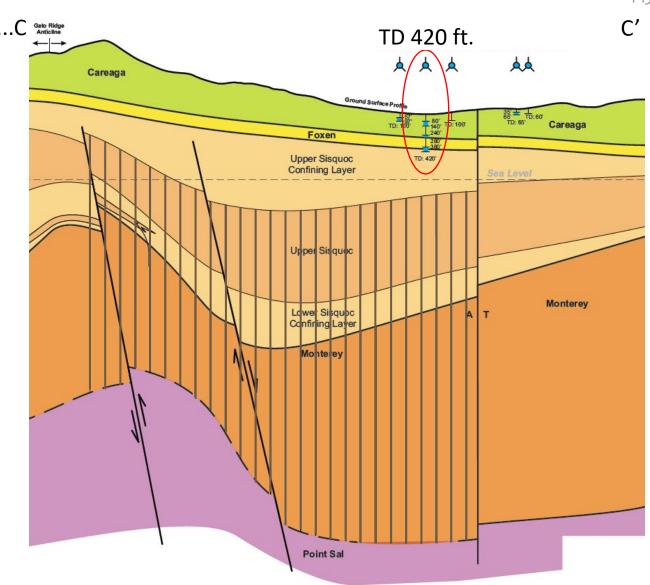
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- There are 2 domestic wells for which we have no depth information. One is inside the proposed expansion area. The other well is outside of the proposed area, and it is separated from the area by a sealing fault.

STRATIGRAPHICALLY DEEPEST WATER WELLS

 This is the stratigraphically deepest well in the proposed exempt area. It penetrates the Upper Sisquoc Confining layer. It's documented purpose is domestic/irrigation.



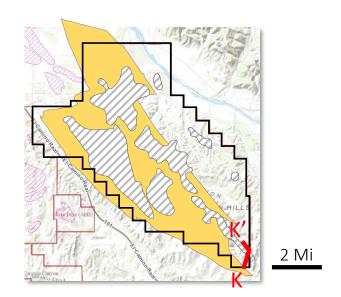
2 Mi

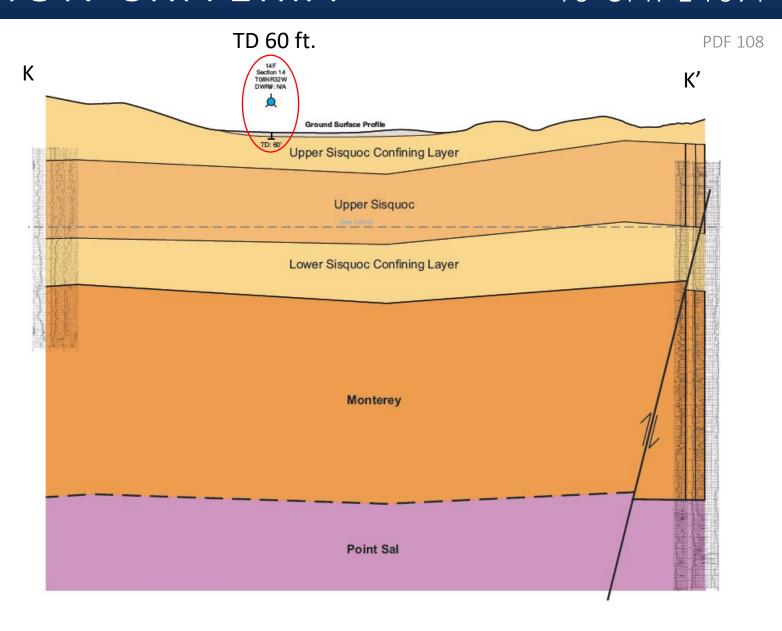




STRATIGRAPHICALLY DEEPEST WATER WELLS

 This well is slightly beyond the proposed expansion area and also penetrates the Upper Sisquoc Confining Layer. It's documented purpose is irrigation.







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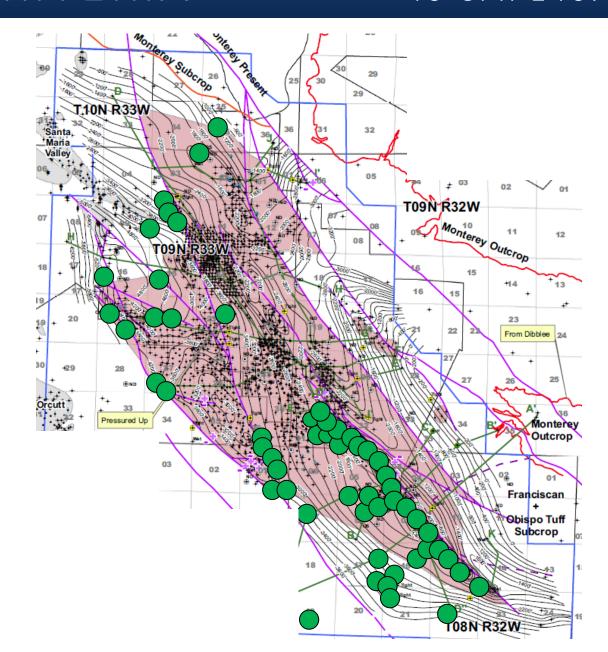
OIL IN THE MONTEREY FORMATION

- Monterey Formation is the area's petroleum source rock. Oil is found nearly everywhere where the Monterey is present.
- Production is most prolific in areas of high fracture density and permeability. This is generally along the crests of folds and/or near faults.

Active Oil Proposed Exemption Area Production Areas Oil Shows



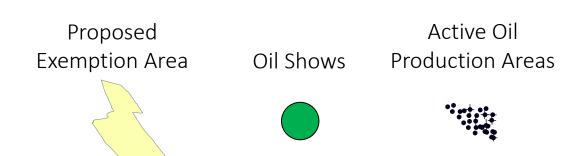


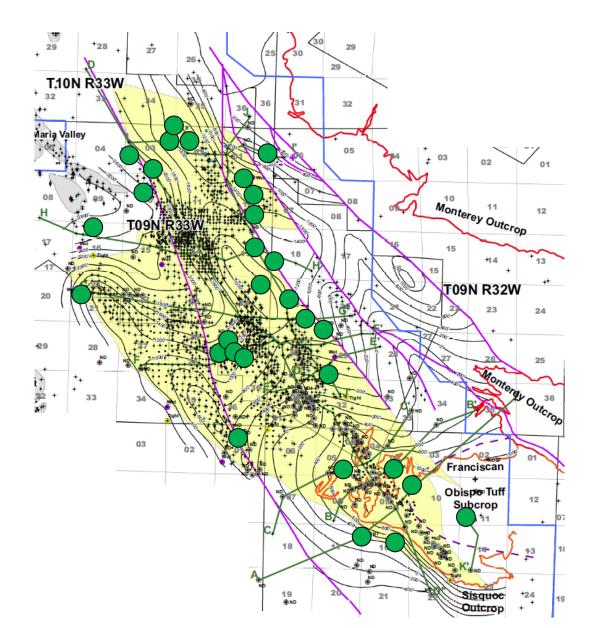




OIL IN THE SISQUOC FORMATION

- The Sisquoc Formation lays above the Monterey. The known extent of oil within the Sisquoc defines the proposed exemption area.
- Like the Monterey, production is most prolific in areas of high fracture density and permeability. This is generally along the crests of folds and/or near faults.







PRC 3131 (a)

- 1. Criteria set forth in Section 146.4 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- 2. The injection of fluids will not affect the quality of water that is, or may reasonably be, used for any beneficial use.
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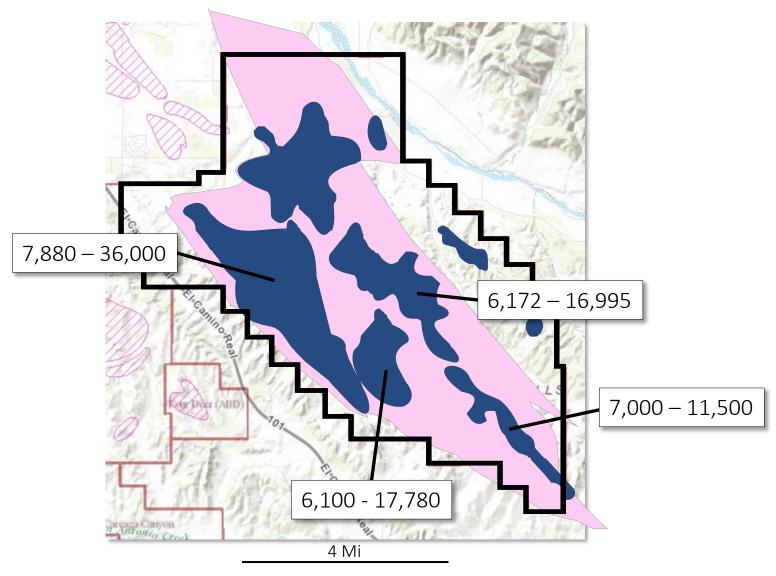
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Above these formations, are large, **FRESH AQUIFERS** which adequately provides abundant water for the area.



STATE EXEMPTION CRITERIA

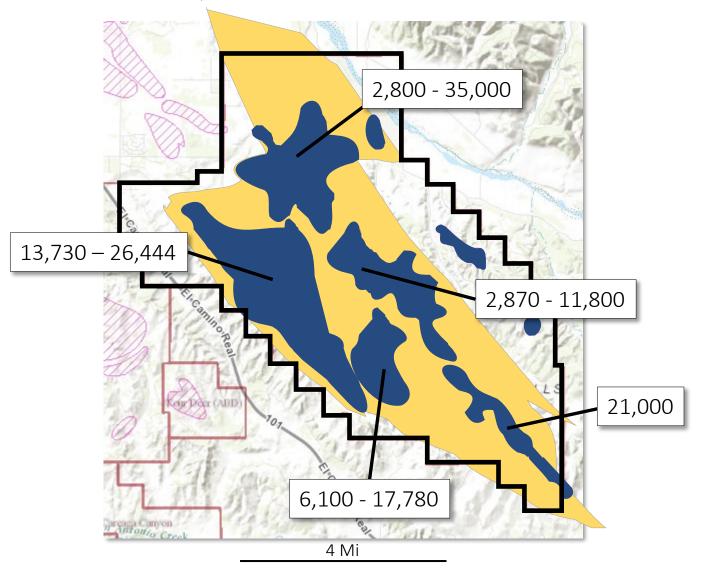
MONTEREY FORMATION TDS RANGE





SISQUOC FORMATION TDS RANGE



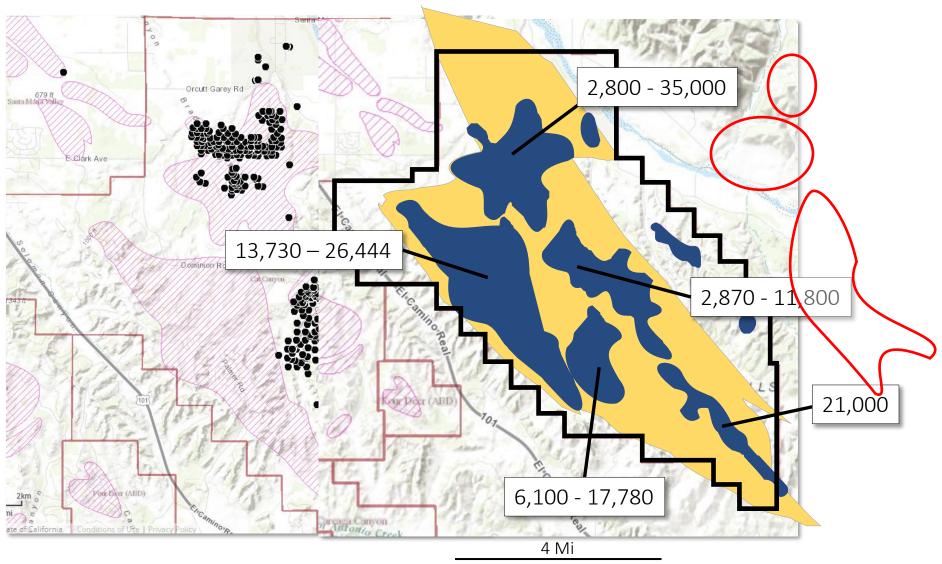




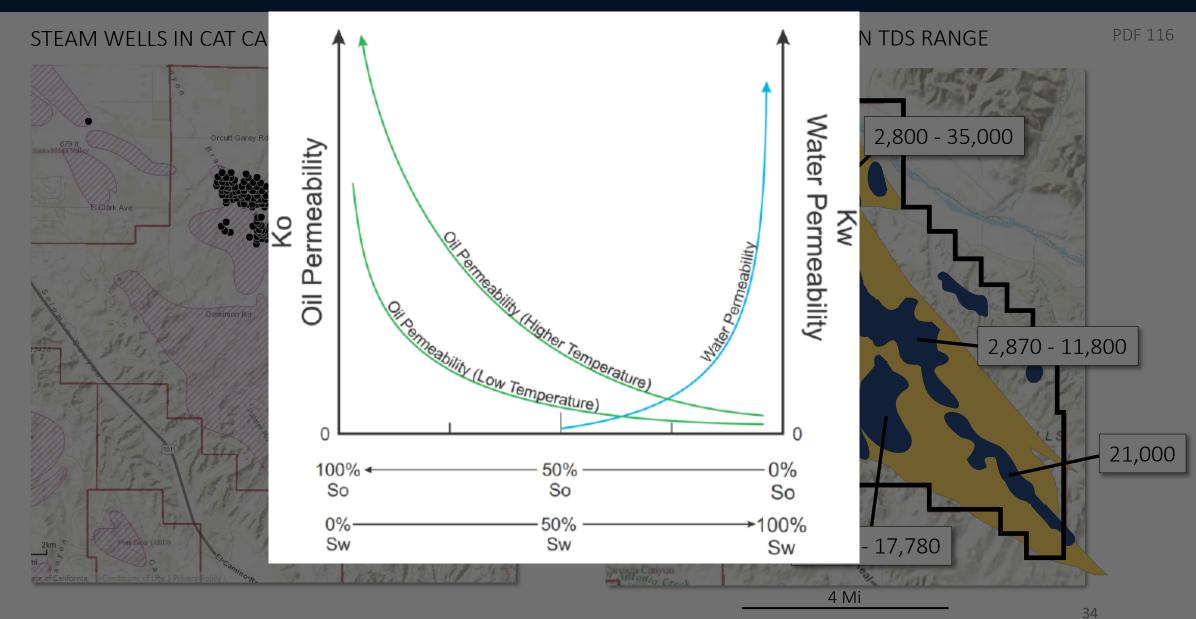
STEAM WELLS IN CAT CANYON

SISQUOC FORMATION TDS RANGE











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• Water is produced with the oil, is treated, and is reinjected only into the oil reservoirs.



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- Prevent scale build up (Surfactants)
- Reduce particulates and insoluble compounds (Clarifiers)
- Manage asphaltene and paraffin precipitation (Aromatic Compounds)



PRC 3131 (a)



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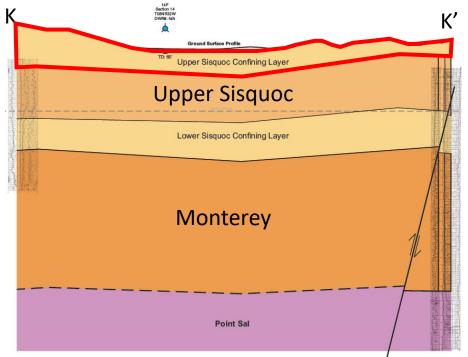
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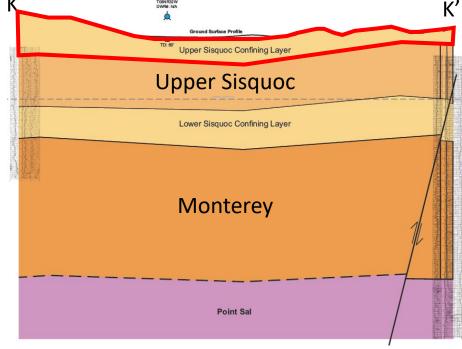
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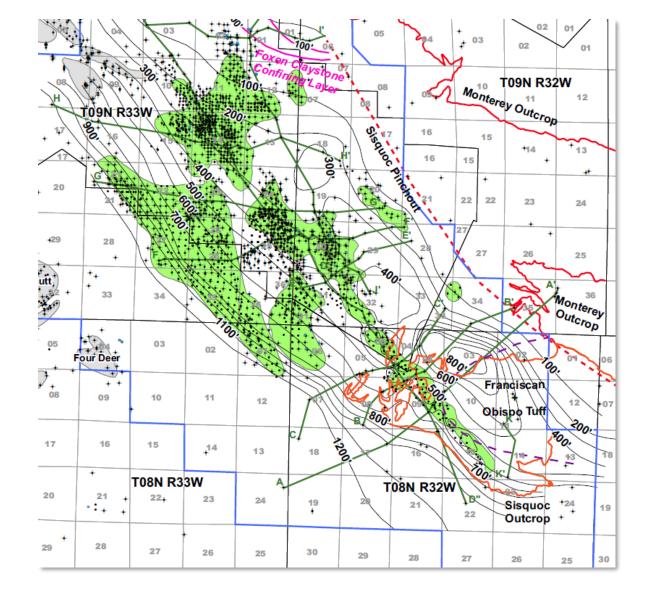


UPPER SISQUOC CONFINING LAYER THICKNESS

0 to 1,100 ft thick. Where 0 ft thick in the NE, the Foxen Claystone provides confinement.



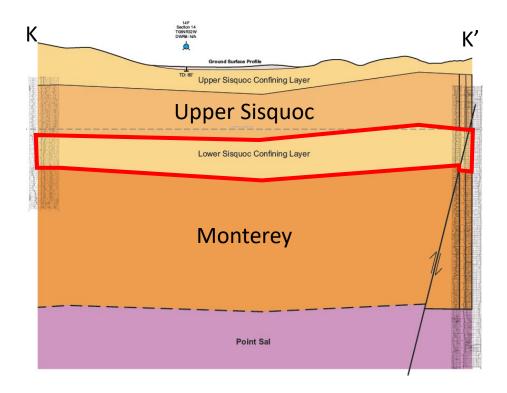


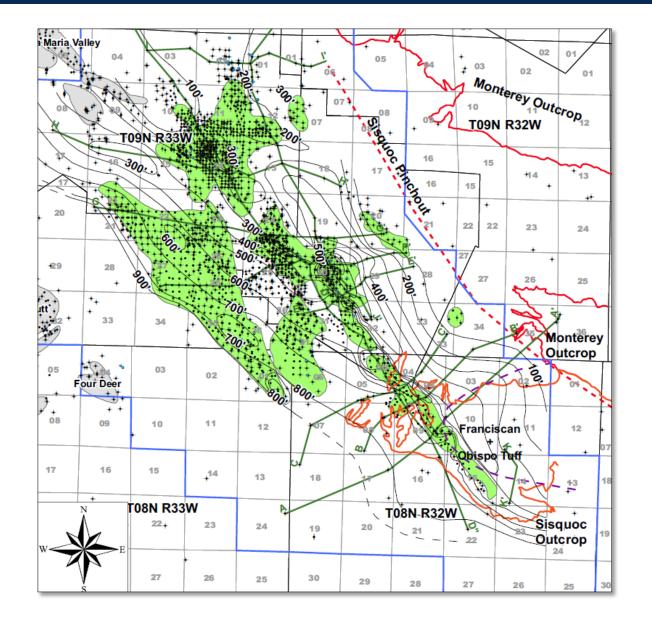




BASAL SISQUOC/ OVERLAYING MONTEREY CONFINING LAYER THICKNESS

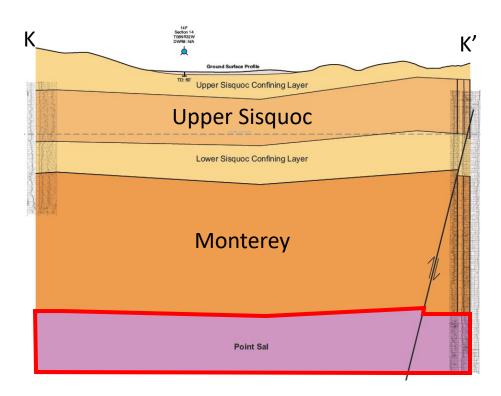
100 to 900 ft thick







POINT SAL, UNDERLAYING MONTEREY CONFINING LAYER Averages 750 ft thick

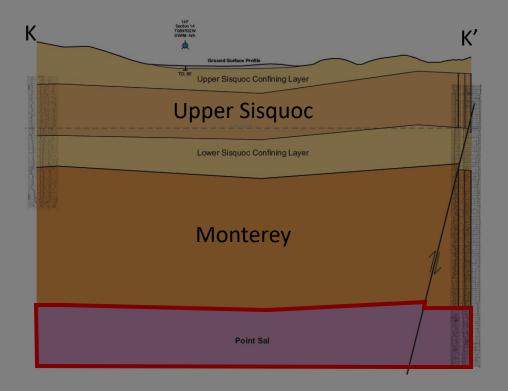


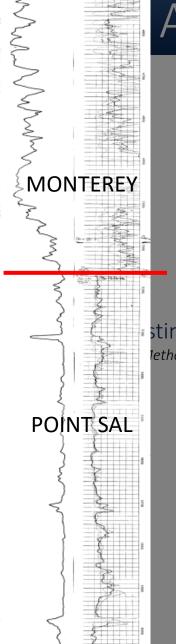
Estimated Permeability $< 0.1 \text{ millidarcy } (8.4 \times 10^7 \text{ cm/s})$ (Method by Freeze and Cherry, 1979)



STATE EXEMPTION C

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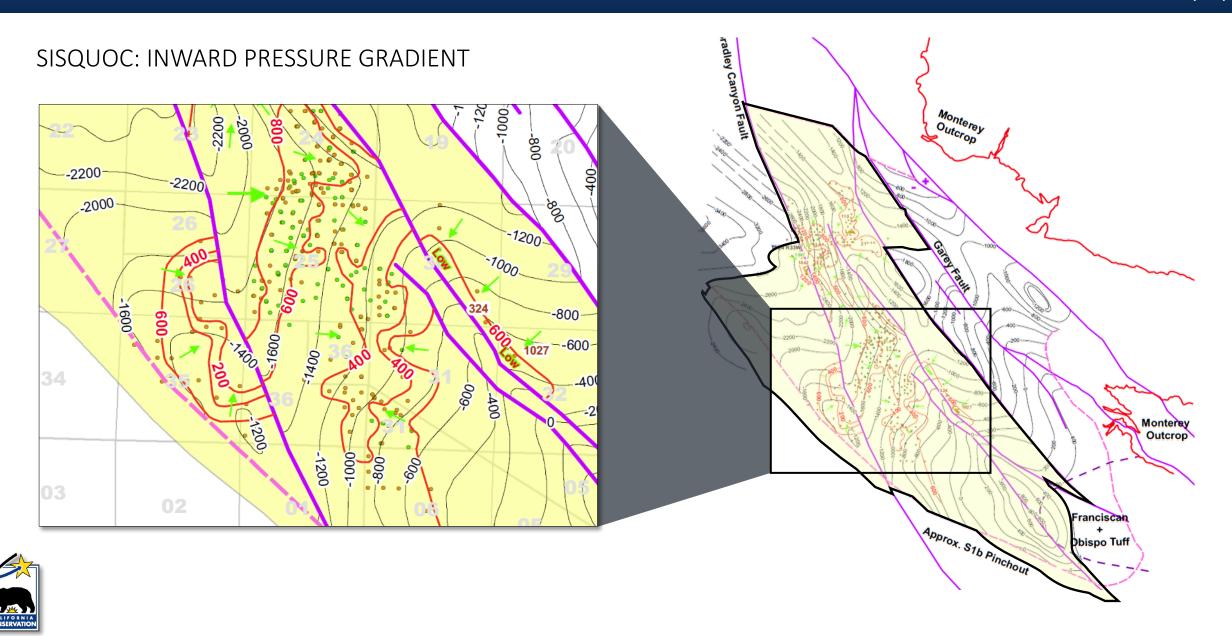


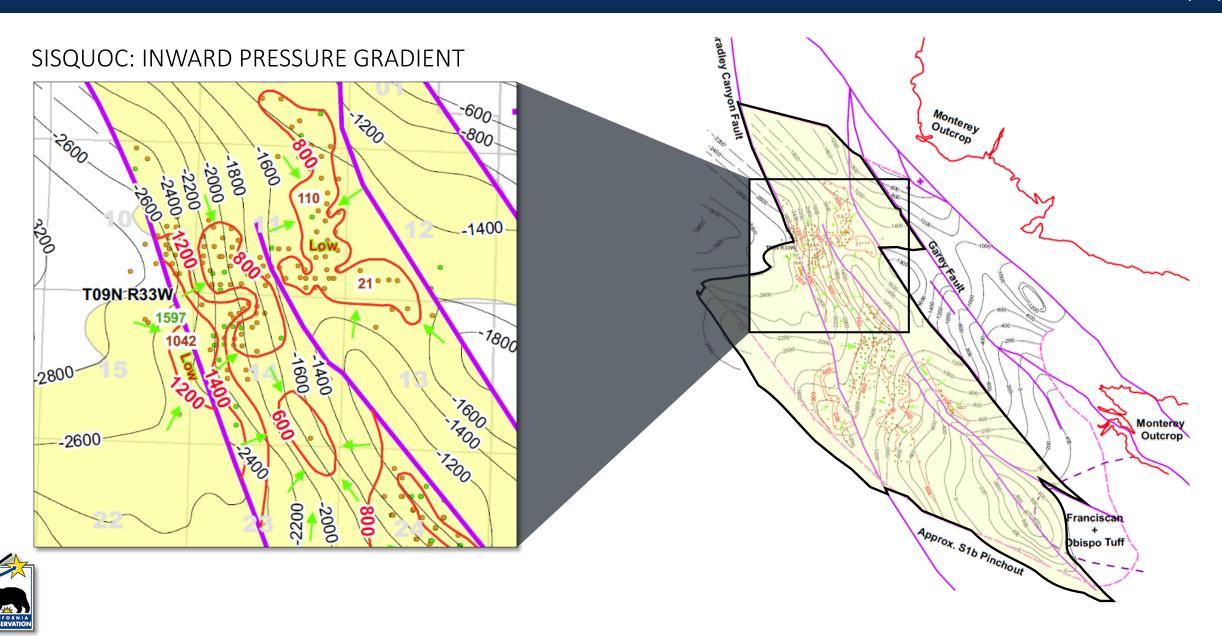


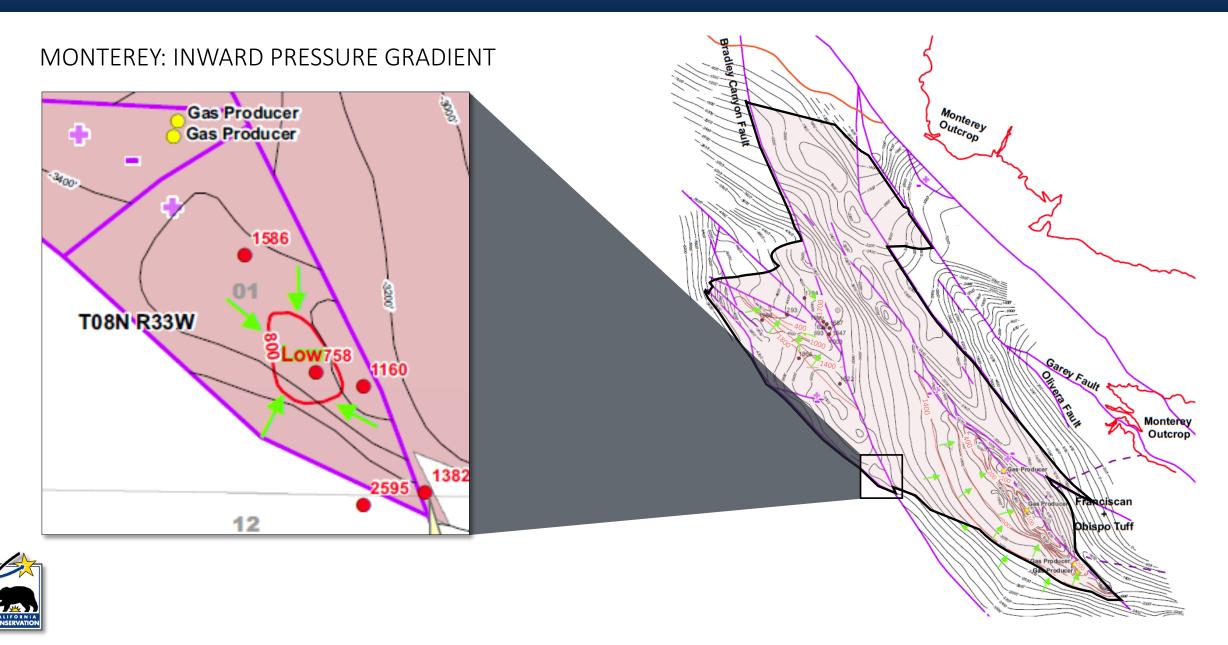
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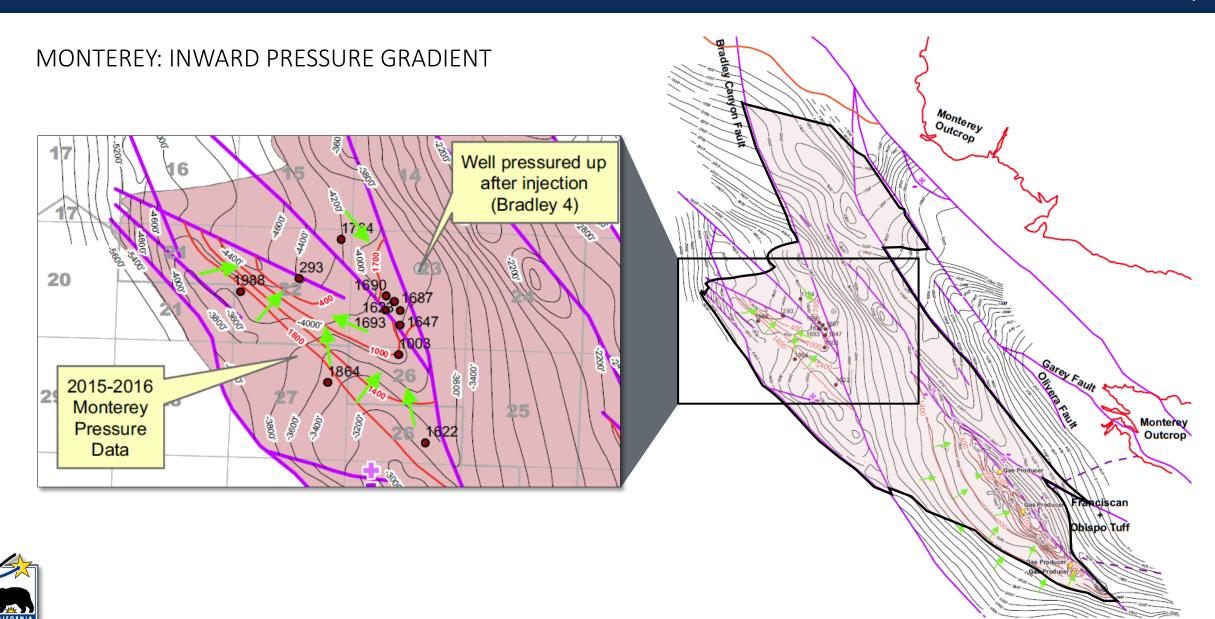
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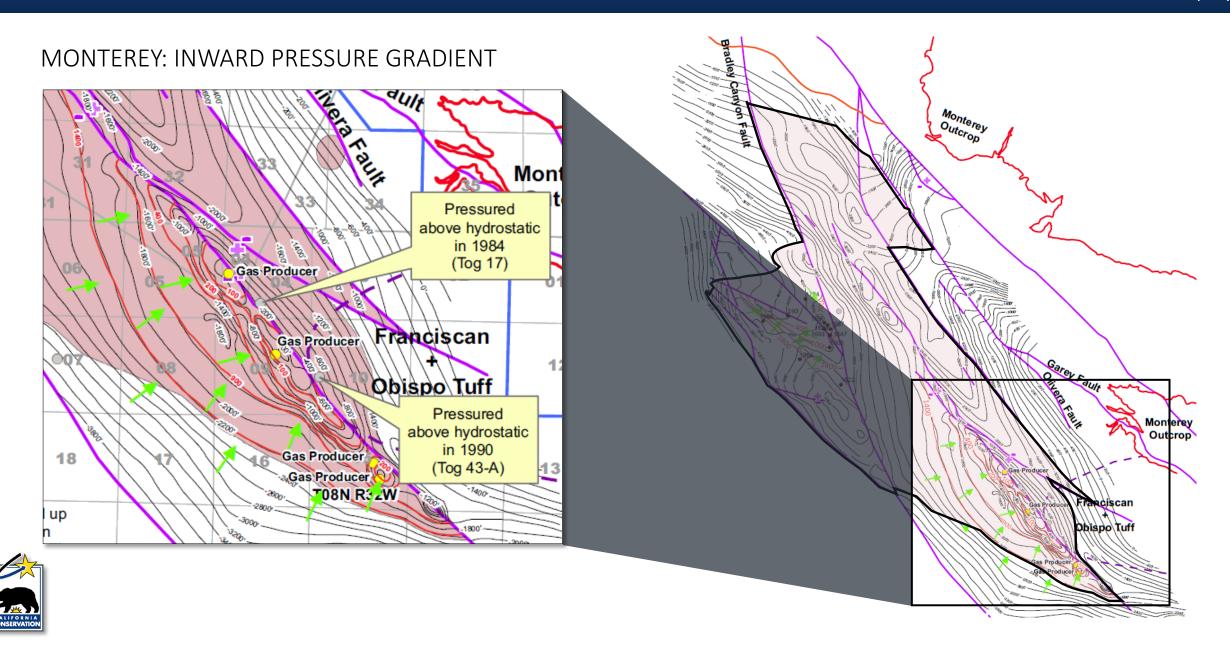


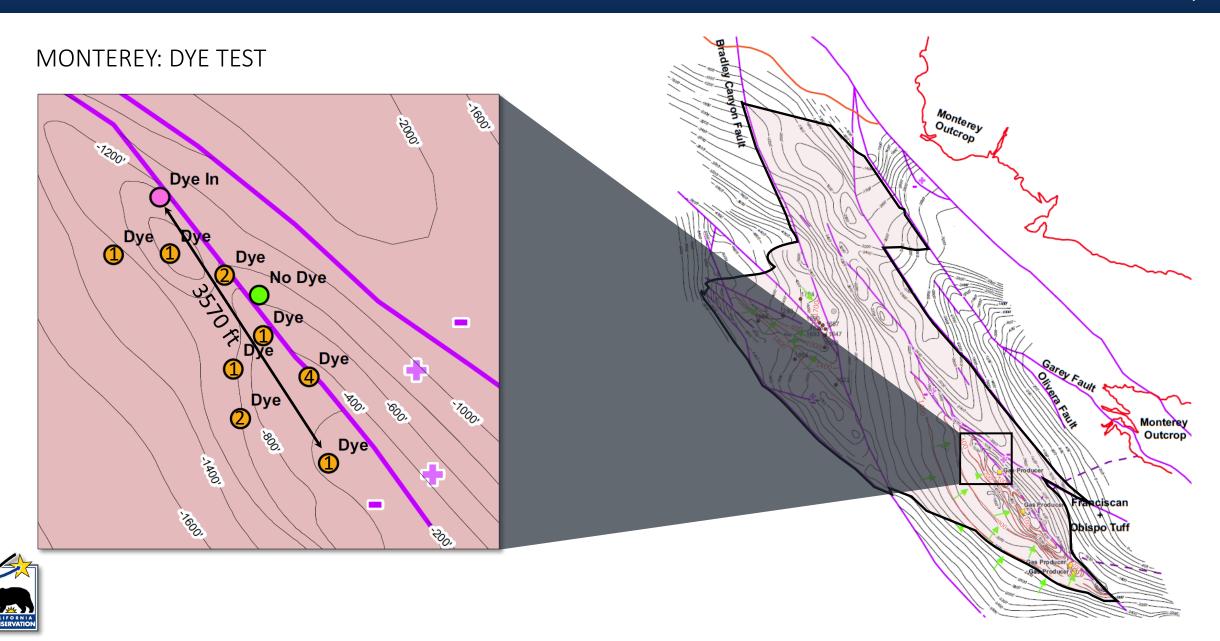












40 CFR 146.4

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